

Tiverton Open Space and Land Preservation Commission

Minutes of April 21, 2008 Meeting at Essex Library

Present: Martha Moore, Garry Plunkett (co-chair) Ginger Lacy (co-chair)
Gayle Lawrence, Susan Anderson, Brian Janes and Martin Van Hof

Garry announced a presentation to be given by Charles V. Cogbill, Ph.D titled Bearing Witness to the Past to be presented at Weaver Auditorium at URI Kingston on April 24, 2008

Minutes were approved as presented.

Budget- Finance presented by Garry:

Conveyance	(\$23,672.18)
March receipts	\$4339.49
Open Space Acct.	\$665.49
Fort Barton Acct.	\$1,717.00
Open Space Stewardship	\$4,196.79
Pocassetlands Stewardship	\$1,326.00

Approved to reimburse Garry for a \$75.00 stipend for Numi Mitchell for her coyote talk and reimburse Ginger for a \$50 stipend for Steve Rys for videoing the event. It was agreed to increase Steve's stipend to \$100 for future events.

It was also approved to have a donation box at future events.

Education and Grants:

Gayle Lawrence announced that we still have some time to spend the \$1800 grant for signs. She will check how long we have. The Director of the Trails committee Dick Tierney of RIDEM encouraged us to apply for more grants even though we haven't spent the Sign Grant. It was approved to apply for funds to improve access to the Kirwin lot. Garry will look into creating a budget for the project.

Sue Anderson announced that there will be a leader walk for adults to kick off the second grade walks program in Weetamoo on April 30.

Also April 19-27 is Tiverton Clean-Up week. Gayle reported that the original clean up day in Tiverton in 1971 netted 250 tons of rubbish.

Kate Georgie of NRCS came to inspect the work that Tom Sandham has been doing on the Babcock Grassland work.

Gayle and Garry presented a concept to train High School volunteers as Trail Guides. The training and use of these students for events at TOSC properties and Land Trust Events could apply toward their required volunteer hours. Martha Moore, Garry Plunkett, Sue Anderson, and Gayle Lawrence will work on the project with Service Coordinator Rebecca Elwell and others at Tiverton High School.

Ginger and Gayle mentioned that a group effort between the Tiverton Land Trust, Sakonnet Arts Network, Tiverton's Arts Council, Drug Prevention Coalition, the Tiverton School system and Open Space has resulted in a developing program called "no child left inside". First event is Photo Day at Pardon Gray for the students K-12. May 17th, 8-11 a.m. and May 18th 2-5 p.m. Photographer mentors welcomed.

Trails and Habitat:

Garry Plunkett reported that a blow-down was spotted in Weetamoo by a trail steward. Garry also will meet with Phil Schuyler and the mowing contractor about adjusting the mowing schedule at Ft. Barton to allow the grass to grow taller especially on the redoubt.

Garry also reported that the orange trail is now complete.

Ginger Lacy presented the new signs for Weetamoo. They were approved with the provision that the maker make adjustments to the type on part of the signs.

Susan Anderson reported on a search of town records on easements. Most will have no impact on TOSC. She will work on completing the investigation. Susan also reported on town owned properties. New additions were likely tax sale properties. It was suggested that actively managed open space areas be marked with a separate color on the chart.

Gayle announced August 25th will be the Roger Williams University volunteer day. There will be a need for supervisors for the groups doing the work. Garry will contact the trail stewards for volunteers for that day.

The memorandum to the Town Council concerning rezoning several parcels was presented by Ginger Lacy and approved.

The Garden Club has offered \$25 toward planting a tree at Fort Barton. Martin offered to supply a Scarlet Oak at Cost.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 pm.

Submitted by Martin Van Hof